

The Clipper Visits... Dr. Parviz Adle

By MARTHA HIMES

A vibrant painting of a 19th century Shah of Iran hangs on the wall. A dozen honorary medals from European countries, including France's Legion of Honor, are displayed in a glass-topped coffee table. Also in the coffee table lies a key to San Francisco that actually works (it opens the door of an old mission).

Dr. Parviz Adle, retired Ambassador from Iran, is sitting in the living room of his Duxbury apartment.

Genealogically, Adle has one foot in Europe and one foot in Iran. On his mother's side, he is the great-grandson of

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A FULL LIFE – Dr. Adle has traveled with Charles de Gaulle, sat in on meetings with Neil Armstrong and George Bush, and survived two separate bombings in his roles as Iranian consul general and ambassador.

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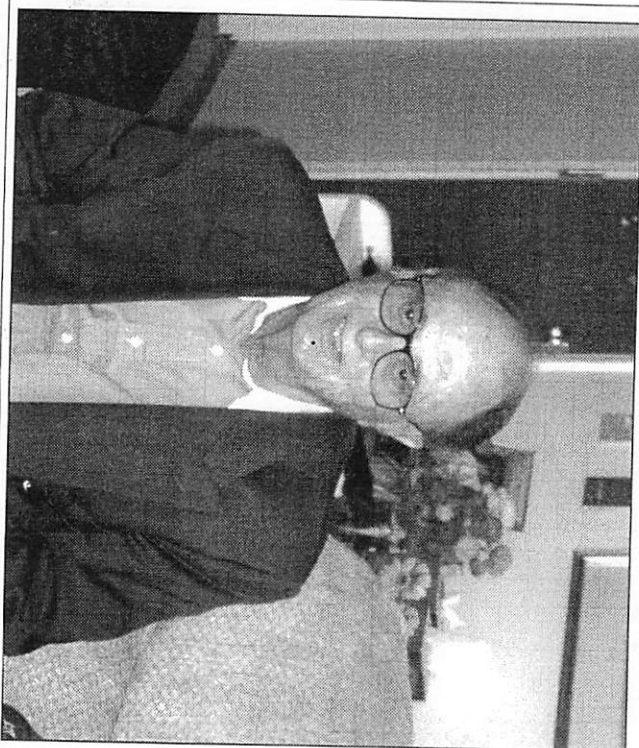
three historic personages: General Nelson Miles of Massachusetts, the commander in charge of the 1898 United States invasion of Puerto Rico; Marie Rôze, nineteenth century opera star for whom Bizet wrote "Carmen"; and the then-Duke of Edinburgh, with whom Rôze had an affair.

On his father's side, Adle is thoroughly Iranian, tracing his heritage back to the Prophet of Islam.

Born in 1923, Adle's life has ranged from "a feudal regime to the modern to playing with computers." As a small child, his mother took him to London to live. But when he was three, his father came to London, kidnapped him and took him to Iran, where he lived in Tabriz and Tehran. His father was the landowner of a village, his income obtained from payments made by those who farmed his land.

"He wouldn't let anyone talk about my mother," Adle said. "For twenty years I wondered if my mother was alive. During the war, hearing the news of bombings in London, I thought she was dead."

Near the end of World War II, Soviets occupied his father's village and seized all his property. Aware that he could no longer afford an education for



himat was dining the evening his consulate was bombed in a terrorist attack in 1971. He saw the flames and heard the sirens as he was driving back to the consulate. Luckily, his wife and three children escaped safely.

While police never determined who had planted the bomb, Adle believes it was Iranian students, who had been protesting the Shah's regime outside the consulate for many years.

"You don't know the privilege of being able to do this. I never can see the school I was in as a child, or show where I was born."

in very terrible conditions... What keeps me alive is to be able to do something," Adle said.

They moved to Baku in Azerbaijan when it became independent from the Soviet Union. Adle worked as a political consultant to elect a president. After mutinies and a coup d'état, Adle's compound was bombed. He escaped through a hole in a wall.

"After losing everything in Iran, I succeeded having this and I lost this too," Adle said.

In 1995, he and Ellen returned to the United States, where they moved to Hingham. Around 1997, the couple moved to Duxbury. "I am very

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his son, his father arranged through a relative to send Adle to his mother, alive and now living in Brussels.

His mother was wealthy, having remarried to a Hungarian baron who was killed during the war. She sent her son to school at the Catholic University of Louvain, where he earned two Ph.D.s.

Following graduation, Adle returned to Iran and joined the Foreign Service in 1953. He began his career as an attaché, assigned to Cairo and Pakistan. From there he was assigned to Paris.

While in Paris, he made several trips to Iran with General Charles de Gaulle, whom he greatly admired. "He was a very great man," Adle said. "It was very difficult to control him. He didn't listen to security and liked to fraternize with people."

As Adle worked up the diplomatic ladder, he was sent to San Francisco as the Consul General.

His years in San Francisco were eventful. He was invited by the head of Standard Oil to spend a week at the Bohemian Club summer retreat near Russian River, CA, an exclusive gathering of the most powerful men.

"At lunchtime there was a lecture. On one side of me was Neil Armstrong, on the other side was the then-head of the CIA, George Bush," he said.

The Bohemian Club also had a restaurant in San Francisco, which is where the dip-

ing up. In a revolution, suddenly you lose everything, even your identity."

From San Francisco, Adle was given a promotion to Ambassador and was sent to Canada and Brazil.

In 1979, while Adle was in Brazil, the Shah was deposed by Ayatollah Khomeini. Adle lost everything: his job, his house in Iran, his residence in Brazil, his pension, and his money. All were seized by the new government, and Adle was declared an enemy of Iran. He managed to get himself and his family to Ottawa, Canada, where they lived for several years.

He praises the people of Canada and describes the country as "very nice." However, his return to Ottawa was shadowed by the effects of the revolution.

"In a place where you have been very important, when you become nothing, it is terrible. In Ottawa, when I was Ambassador, I had a Cadillac, a chauffeur, I was invited to embassies, and now I was going to the supermarket buying bread. If you were important in a town, you shouldn't go there when you have nothing."

Adle and his wife divorced. While visiting Boston, he met his present wife, Ellen, in 1985.

The two traveled to Istanbul, where they were married in 1991. There, they ran an organization that helped refugees.

"There were many refugees

happy here. Ellen is a fantastic person. I am really lucky," Adle said.

Here in Duxbury, Adle keeps busy in a number of ways. He still writes articles for Iranian journals. He recently completed an article entitled "Where is Bin Laden?" (Adle suspects Bin Laden is hiding in Saudi Arabia).

Adle is also one of the Directors of the Friends of the Duxbury Council on Aging. He has also volunteered with Joe McStowe of Plymouth on the Plymouth Thanksgiving parade.

Adle explains his life thusly: "I have a formidable sense of adapting myself to a situation."

Adaptation seems to be a necessity for Iranians, as depicted by the provenance of the 19th century Shah's portrait hanging on Adle's living room wall. It was given to him on a trip to Caracas to visit a friend, a former Prince of Iran, and the former Ambassador to Caracas, now the successful owner of a Venezuelan potato chip factory.

Adle wishes he could return to Iran, if only to see his father's grave. When he and Ellen visit her hometown, Hingham, she points out her elementary school and the places she enjoyed as a child. He envies this ability.

"You don't know the privilege of being able to do this. I never can see the school I was in as a child, or show where I was growing up. In a revolution, suddenly you lose everything, even your identity."